

2011 Community Garden Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that everyone enjoys the Carmichael Community Garden, and to ensure that the garden activities run smoothly. The Carmichael Community Garden exists to promote good gardening techniques, sharing of information and community camaraderie.

The garden plots are available to the residents of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District, members in good standing with the Sacramento County Extension Service Master Gardeners Program, and to other residents of the County as space permits. **All active gardeners (and working family members) must have a current District Registration Form on file.**

The plots are limited to one per family and are available on a first come first serve basis. Returning gardeners have priority for registration or to exchange plots for a vacated one prior to new assignment. Individual gardeners cannot transfer gardens. Gardeners in good standing may request an additional plot on a yearly basis if there is no waiting list.

Gardeners must agree to comply with the rules and work requirements of the garden. There is an annual fee (\$55) associated with plot assignments to help cover costs.

Continued use of the plot is contingent upon upkeep. Gardeners must begin working their plots by April 1. Plants must be removed when they cease to bear in the fall unless you are collecting seeds. Weed abatement is **REQUIRED**. Nut grass must be kept from maturing and developing seed heads. If health, or any other issue, keeps a gardener from complying he or she must notify the Recreation Supervisor.

Gardeners are responsible for maintaining all paths adjacent to their plots.

Community workdays will be scheduled on a monthly basis throughout the year per the Recreation Supervisor. There are occasional work evenings and other special projects to participate in as well. Gardeners should put in at least 10 hours of community work beyond caring for their own plot and pathway area or participate as a member of a specialized sub committee to help maintain the garden.

Unattended watering, standing water on your plot, surface water leaving your plot and overhead sprinkler watering are not allowed. Do not use another gardener's hose or faucet without permission. The District must approve all timers and watering systems prior to set up. If a garden is over-watered (this includes both standing water in your plot, and water leaving your plot), the water will be turned off. The gardener will be notified the same day and will be required to consult with the Recreation Supervisor in order to resolve the issue. Notify the Recreation Supervisor if there are any water leaks. Hoses should be neatly put back at the water faucets when you are finished using them. A timer has been installed on the main water line. Watering times are from dawn to dark.

Tall vegetables, vines, or spreading plants must not encroach on the air and light space of adjacent lots and must be confined to plot boundaries. Invasive plants must be confined. There is to be no planting on the perimeter fence.

Removal of produce from any garden plot (other than your own) without prior approval will result in disciplinary action, including the possible loss of your plot.

Vegetative refuse is to be removed from the garden or disposed of in the designated compost area which is on the "field" side of the tree at the north corner of the garden. No trash is allowed in this pile and refuse should be dumped towards the open field and not towards the garden.

The garden is available from dawn to dark, seven days a week. Garden gates must be locked and securely fastened at all times. The gate to the parking area must be locked when the last car leaves no matter what time of day.

The bulletin board is for any gardener to leave messages or garden notes of interest.

Gardeners should notify the Recreation Supervisor ASAP if they are no longer able to tend to their garden, if they will be gone for an extended period of time (more than 4 weeks), or if they have a change of address or phone number. Otherwise, the plot will be reassigned.

Items in the tool shed are for everyone's use and must be returned to the shed when not in use.

Sale of produce (plants, flowers, vegetables, fruit) grown in the Community Garden is strictly prohibited except for garden fundraisers.

If visitors enter the garden, welcome them and advise them to tour the garden while staying on the pathways only. Please advise them to shut the gates securely. Children must be supervised so as not to disturb other gardeners and/or plots.

The Community Garden strives to promote healthy, organic gardening techniques. Use of chemicals (pesticides, herbicides and fungicides) is restricted on an individual basis but may be considered by the District in some extreme instances where weeds are rampant in the pathways or garden perimeter. If a gardener has a need to consider chemical control please contact the Advisory Board and/or Recreation Supervisor who will attempt to find an alternative.

Vandalism or theft must be reported immediately to the Recreation Supervisor and/or Sheriff.

Smoking is not allowed (Sac. Co. Ord. 9.36.058). Dogs must be on a leash at all times in the park, (Sac. Co. Ord. 9.36.061). Pets are not allowed in the garden.

Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in the loss of gardening privileges.

The Three Strikes Rule is outlined below:

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the revocation of your plot after three strikes and at the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor:

1. Gardeners will be notified verbally or by e-mail of the issue (ie. continued waste of water, equipment negligence or weed control).
2. If the issue goes unresolved or no clear attempt has been made, the gardener will receive a second verbal or written notification.
3. If the violation persists to the detriment of the garden and/or other gardeners, the plot(s) will be revoked by the CRPD Recreation Supervisor.

Contact Information:

Elizabeth Crisante, Recreation Supervisor

Carmichael Recreation and Park District

5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608

(916) 483-7826 x25 fax (916) 483-7861

ecrisante@carmichaelpark.com